AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A hot-swap device applicable to the ATA (AT Attachment) interface, comprising at least an IDE hard disk drive (HDD) controller for processing IDE instructions transferred from the ATA interface, wherein at least a program code is provided to the IDE hard disk drive controller to respond to the ATA interface <u>with a virtual storage device having data for all sectors other than sector 0 when there is no</u> ~~"a virtual storage device" in the case of lacking~~ a real storage device connected to the IDE HDD controller via the ATA interface, or <u>to disable response of the virtual storage device to the ATA interface if a real storage device is connected</u> ~~if the program code is executed to connect "a real storage device"~~ to the IDE HDD controller via the ATA interface, ~~connection of the IDE HDD controller with the ATA interface is disabled so that~~ <u>to allow</u> the real storage device [[will]] <u>to</u> respond to the ATA interface directly.

2. (Currently amended) The hot-swap device according to claim 1, wherein the program code for <u>responding with the virtual storage device</u> ~~output of "a virtual storage device"~~ to the ATA interface is run by the IDE hard disk drive controller to effect output of a virtual identifier (ID) table and a virtual partition table to the ATA interface.

3. (Currently amended) [[A]] <u>The</u> hot-swap device <u>according to claim 1, wherein the real storage device is an</u> ~~applicable to the ATA (AT Attachment) interface, comprising an integrated drive electronics (IDE) hard disk device controller for processing IDE instructions transferred from the ATA interface, wherein at least a program code is~~

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~~provided to the IDE hard disk drive controller for the same to execute and respond to
the ATA interface "a virtual storage device" in the case of lacking a real storage device
connected to the IDE hard disk drive controller, or respond to the ATA interface "a
real storage device" if the program code is executed to connect a "real storage device"
with the~~ IDE hard disk drive.

4. (Currently amended) The hot-swap device according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein the real

    storage device is a compact-flash memory storage device.

5. (Cancelled).

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